

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 827

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor the life and memory of the late Beverley Pierce Woodruff of Maryville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Beverley Woodruff; and

WHEREAS, Beverley Woodruff was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Beverley Woodruff was elected as the Blount County Register of Deeds in 1994 and was later elected as the County Executive in May 2002, beating five other candidates for the office; the title of County Executive was changed to County Mayor during her term. She had many professional accomplishments, most notably, becoming the first female to serve in either of these positions; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Woodruff was an inspirational civic leader who devoted all of her energy and passion to Blount County; her daughter reflected on her mother's devotion to her community saying, "She had a second family and that family was our county"; and

WHEREAS, after being diagnosed with idiopathic Parkinson's disease in July 2002, Beverley Woodruff continued to fulfill her duties as mayor until taking leave in July 2005 in order to focus on her health; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Woodruff was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend, she is survived by: her loving husband of thirty-six years, Phillip Woodruff; daughters, Jama Hurst and Leah Woodruff; step-son, Phillip Young; grandchildren, Kiley Jo, Dalton, Marley, and Gavin; mother, Jean Pierce; brothers, Mike and Mark Pierce; and mother-in-law, Louise Woodruff;

along with her loving companion, Molly the dachshund, and a host of other family members and close friends; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Woodruff leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Beverley Pierce Woodruff, former mayor of Blount County, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Woodruff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.